

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

DE 21-089

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY

Petition for Recovery of Storm Expenses

**Order *Nisi* Approving Recovery of Costs as Modified by Assented-To
Disallowances**

ORDER NO. 26,686

September 15, 2022

This order approves Eversource's petition to recover costs from the Major Storm Cost Reserve for nine events that occurred between October 2019 and May 2020, subject to removal of \$17,607 in costs, assented to by the Company and based on the conclusions of an audit report performed by the New Hampshire Department of Energy.

I. BACKGROUND

Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy (Eversource or the Company) maintains a Major Storm Cost Reserve (MSCR) pursuant to the settlement agreement in Docket No. DE 99-099 and the pre-staging criteria approved in Docket No. DE 12-320. The MSCR is an account with allowed recovery from customers of a specified annual amount in distribution rates that is used to offset costs incurred if a qualifying major storm or pre-staging event occurs. Simultaneously, Eversource records a liability equal to the amount it recovers from customers so that the recovery does not result in earnings accruing to the Company.

When a qualifying major storm¹ or qualifying pre-staging event² occurs, costs related to restoring electric service are charged to the MSCR and all charges to the MSCR are audited by the audit staff at the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) and approved by the Commission.

II. SUMMARY OF FILINGS

On April 30, 2021, Eversource filed a petition for recovery of costs associated with nine storm and storm pre-staging events that occurred between October 2019 and May 2020 from its MSCR account. Accompanying its petition, Eversource pre-filed the direct testimony of Erica L. Menard and Dean C. Desautels. Eversource requested recovery of approximately \$17.6 million in costs over this period.

On July 15, 2022, the New Hampshire Department of Energy (DOE) filed an audit report and recommendation, proposing the disallowance of \$17,607 in costs based on three issues that were discovered during the routine audit of Eversource's MSCR costs:

- 1) Absence of documentation supporting specific charges (\$8,493);
- 2) Discrepancies between amounts listed as due for payment and those charged to the storm cost reserve (\$1,130); and
- 3) Invoices either pre-dating or post-dating identified storm events (\$7,984).

According to the DOE, Eversource assented to these disallowances.

Other than procedural matters, no other filings were received in this matter.

Eversource's petition, the DOE's audit report and recommendation, and other docket filings, other than any information for which confidential treatment is

¹ A Major Storm is defined as an event that results in either: a) 10% or more of Eversource's retail customers being without power in conjunction with more than 200 reported troubles; or b) more than 300 reported troubles during the event. *Public Service Company of New Hampshire*, Order No. 25,465 at 1 (February 26, 2013).

² A qualifying Pre-staging event is defined as a severe weather event with high probability, greater than 60%, of reaching an Energy Event Index Level 3. *Id.* at 4.

requested of or granted by the Commission, are available on the Commission's website at: <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Regulatory/Docketbk/2021/21-089.html>.

III. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission has reviewed Eversource's filings and the DOE's audit report and recommendation. Based on its review, the Commission disallows \$17,607 in costs as identified though the DOE's audit and assented to by Eversource. The Commission therefore approves Eversource's recovery of the remaining storm costs incurred between October 2019 and May 2020, identified by the DOE filings as totaling \$17,563,561³, as well as appropriate carrying charges. This amount represents Eversource's storm costs related to storm restoration and pre-staging events from October 2019 and May 2020, which have been audited by and reviewed by the DOE. Eversource shall notify both the DOE and the Commission when the Company has determined the amount of appropriate carrying charges, and it shall confirm the amount of the recovery and balance of the MSCR fund.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED *IN SI*, that Eversource is authorized cost recovery in the amount of \$17,563,561 from the MSCR fund, as well as appropriate carrying charges; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that Eversource shall cause a copy of this order to be published on its website within two business days of this order, and to be documented by affidavit filed with the Commission on or before September 30, 2022; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that persons interested in responding to this order be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for hearing,


³ While the Commission relies on the validity of post-audit costs, it is noted that this amount varies slightly from the amount originally derived from the petition seeking \$17,581,346, leaving \$17,563,739 in MSCR costs net of disallowances.

which states the reason and basis for a hearing, no later than September 30, 2022 for the Commission's consideration; and it is

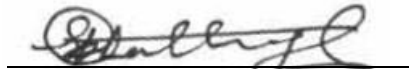
FURTHER ORDERED, that any person interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than October 7, 2022; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this order shall be effective October 14, 2022, unless Eversource fails to satisfy the publication obligation set forth above or the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date.

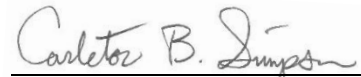
By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New Hampshire this fifteenth day of September, 2022.



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman



Pradip K. Chattopadhyay
Commissioner



Carleton B. Simpson
Commissioner

Service List - Docket Related

Docket# : 21-089

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